

24<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

### **Kathmandu Declaration**

We, the people of SAARC countries, the CSOs and mass organizations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka representing the movements of peoples' organizations, peasants, landless farmers, women, indigenous people, *Dalits*, pastoral herders, fisher-folks, rural youths, small and medium sized producers and agricultural workers assembled in the international conference on **Forum for Food Sovereignty and peasants' rights** under *PEOPLES' SAARC* on 23- 25 March, 2007 at Kathmandu,

Notice it with great concern that most people of these countries are falling in the grip of the hunger and starvation due to the denial of peasants' access to land and food producing resources which abounds in the Nature's endowments in this quarter,

Consider this grim situation as the result of Governments' subjugation to neo-liberal policy regimes concocted by the imperialist forces in the new form and implemented in conspiracy with IFIs, such as World Bank, IMF, ADB etc., to exploit and extort high profit for TNCs which are based in developed countries at the cost of toiling masses,

Strongly believe that peace and social justice get its root only when the people of these countries become successful to assert genuine land and agrarian reform, establish food sovereignty and inclusive democracy,

Congratulate Nepalese people for their heroic April Revolution 2006, which restored not only Democracy in this Himalayan Land but also tracked the country to republicanism and for their arduous struggle to put **Food Sovereignty** in national agenda, which has already been included in the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2006

Express our warm solidarity with the struggling people and peasants of the SAARC countries, in particular and other countries in general, in their just struggle to put an end to the autocratic rules in whatever form it exists in any quarter and establish peace, social justice, and people's democracy with **food sovereignty** in their respective countries ,

And, call upon all concerned stakeholders to put pressure on the heads of states and governments going to be assembled in New Delhi for forth coming Fourteenth SAARC Summit to declare the region hunger free zone.

Due to failure of Governments and their mentors like the IFIs, to reduce hunger and poverty over many decades, we state that they have lost their legitimacy to so-called PRSPs. Therefore, now is the time that peoples' organizations claim their right to formulate plans to reduce hunger and poverty by themselves. We resolutely support peasants' struggles whether in **Nandigram** of West Bengal, in **South India** or in **Philippines** or **Pakistan** or anywhere and express our solidarity to fight ahead. Let's fight unanimously for "No privatization on air and water". We claim our right to

- *Protect community wisdom with Biodiversity based ecological Agriculture system*
- *Implement comprehensive land reform and genuine agrarian reform*
- *Ensure women ownership on seed and right over land and productive resources*
- *Revoke patent on life forms and food as traded commodity only*

- Stop neo-liberal policies and negotiations thereof such as WTO, FTA etc.
- Conserve, preserve and protect the farmers' knowledge of traditional rice culture and rice cultivation
- Implement the programme of food sovereignty as the basis of international treaties
- Protect our bio- diversity wealth and their community usages, both product and processes
- Hate bio-piracy and IPR provisions that deprive local communities their legitimacy over "improved" genre
- De- privatisation on productive resources, social service and common property
- Resist process of imperialist Globalization and call moratorium on GMOs
- Assert peasants rights to land and productive resources
- Avert increasing vulnerability of marginal land holders and stop to fall into landlessness
- Abolish all forms of bondage including debt-bondage victimizing the agricultural wage labourers
- Insure fair wages to agricultural workers and minimum social protection for all poor farm families both wage workers and self-employed
- Enlarge and establish agriculture market in rural areas by increasing rural electrification and other infra-structures
- Ensure unemployment benefits to rural agricultural laborers
- Ensure livelihood of indigenous people and Dalits
- Condemn international organizations like IRRI that has collaborating with industry against peasants
- WTO, out of agriculture. No privatization on common pool resources

Secretariate,

***Forum for Food Sovereignty and peasants' rights***

Peoples' SAARC, 2007

(All Nepal Peasants' Association , the convenor of the Forum)